[English]

SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM : I will have a discussion with Shri P.R. Dasmunsi. Of course, I was thinking to have meeting in my room. Even the Football Clubs or any Association in India must have this.

[Translation]

Because they pay comparatively more money but the viewers of star T.V. are only one percent whereas the viewership of Doordarshan is at least 29 crore. That is the facility of our country. If machinary is good enough and if somebody wants help for taking uplinking facility, we will try to give him...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : You had your say. Let Shrimati Jayawantiben Mehta speak, now.

(Interruptions)

SHRI A.C. JOS : Sir, the ultimate victim is the football team...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Mr. Jos, you are a senior Member, please sit down.

(Interruptions)

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : Sir, Doordarshan does not allow the sports bodies to give this to any other channel.

[Translation]

You have created a situation in which mother does not given food and father does not allow begging.

(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI A.C. JOS : Sir, I am sorry to say that the hon. Minister Is taking it lightly...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : I have already allowed Shrimati Jayawantiben Mehta.

(Interruptions)

SHRI A.C. JOS : Sir, I am asking this in the interest of the State of Kerala and the hon. Minister is not giving any assurance...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM : I will call Shri Dasmunsi for a meeting...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI NAVINCHANDRA MEHTA : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, at the very beginning of this question, my sisters Uma Bharati, Sushma Swaraj and Munshiji made their respective submissions. Replying to their questions, the hon'ble Minister said that he would bring in the Bill in the next session. In reply to Question No. 366, the Minister has made two things clear. He has said that he would promote the cultural values of our society. In addition to these questions, I want to ask further that when you bring the Bill, that will be discussed and passed at that time but leave it a side. I want to say that showing woman taking drinks, smoking cigarrette and showing other similar things etc. on screen is against our culture.

So far as dignity and self-respect of women are concerned, you should issue orders that from today onwards those vulgar scener will not be shown. My another question, which is very much linked with his one, is that...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Now it is sufficient, you can ask only one question you, please, let him give his reply.

SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI NAVINCHANDRA MEHTA : My next question is also in this connection. In reply to this, he has said that a selection Committee has been set-up therefor.

SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM : What is your question?

SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI NAVINCHANDRA MEHTA : My question is that whether you are going to issue orders for putting a ban on it today itself. The selection committee consists of only bureaucrates, so I would like to know whether you propose to include some social figures also in this committee.

SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM : It is very good suggestion, I will look into it.

SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI NAVINCHANDRA MEHTA : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, he is taking it lightly. He should issue orders on such a serious issue.

New Reserves of Gold

363. SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT :
SHRI PANKAJ CHOWDHARY :

Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the mines alongwith the quantity and value of gold extracted therefrom during 1994-95, 1995-96 and 1996-97 so far;

(b) the total reserves of gold in the country at present;

(c) the States where exploration of gold has been going on;

(d) whether new gold reserves have been located in Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and some other States;

(e) if so, the details thereof, location-wise; and

(f) the steps taken for proper exploration of gold?

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA) : (a) to (f) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) The details of the mines alongwith the quantity and value of gold extracted therefrom during 1994-95, 1995-96 and 1996-97 (upto February, 1997) are indicated below :

(Quantity in Kgs.
(Value in Rs. Lakhs*)

Name of the Mine	1994-95		1995-96		1996-97	
	Production	Value	Production	Value	Production	Value
Bharat Gold Mines Ltd						
M.C.A.	81.30	379,51	87.61	434,56	68.87	352,89
Nandydroog	271.77	1268,62	281.44	1395,94	287.89	1475,16
Chigargunta	138.55	646,75	132.57	657,55	136.76	700,76
Old Bisanatham	24.58	114,74	24.93	123,65	32.60	167,04
Yappamanna	87.74	409,57	79.31	393,38	65.18	333,98
Hosur Champion	13.67	63,34	10.04	49,80	6.12	31,36
Hutti Gold Mines Company Limited						
Hutti Unit	1232.44	5834.49	1011.09	4903.52	1249.15	5621.18
Chitradurga	6.00	217.55	50.20	246.81	159.43	717.44
Hindustan Copper Limited						
HCL (By-product)	480.00	2241.30	375.00	1805.24	510.00	2448.00

(*) Based on the average price of gold realised at Indian Market.

(b) The total reserves of gold-ore in the country is 45.2 million tonnes as on 1.4.1990. An additional reserve of 6.73 million tonnes of gold-ore has been established during the last three years (1993-94, 1994-95 and 1995-96).

(c) Exploration for gold is being undertaken in the States of Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Kerala, Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh.

(d) and (e) Geological Survey of India (GSI) has located new deposits of gold in Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Kerala and Maharashtra during the last three years. The details are as follows :

Karnataka - (i) Hira-Buddini, Raichur District, (ii) Chinmulgund, Dharwar District, (iii) Nagavi, Dharwar District, (iv) Ajjanhalli West Block, Tumkur District (v) G.R. Halli, South Block, Chitradurga District.

Andhra Pradesh - (i) Dona Temple Block, Kurnool District (ii) Kothapalle Block, Anantapur District (iii) Kudithanpalle Block, Chittoor District.

Kerala - (i) Kappil Sector, Mallapuram District.

Rajasthan - (i) Anantpuri-Bhukia, Banswara District.

Madhya Pradesh - (i) Gurharpahar West, Sidhi District.

Maharashtra - (i) Parspro West Block, Nagpur District.

(f) National Mineral Policy, 1993 encourages induction of foreign technology and foreign participation in exploration and mining of high value and scarce minerals which include gold also.

In its field programme, the Geological Survey of India (GSI) has taken up a number of items of exploration of gold with geological mapping, geo-chemical and geo-physical surveys. A Sub-Committee (Group-IV) formed exclusively for Noble Metals under the Central Geological Programme Board of GSI reviews regularly the total gold exploration carried out in the country and forms guidelines and identifies areas for exploration of gold.

[Translation]

SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the demand of gold is constantly increasing. On many occasions in the past we had to sell our gold in order to improve our economy. I want to know from the Hon'ble Minister about the modern indigenous and foreign technology available with us for mining of gold reserves at lesser cost in our country with a view to meet the growing demand of gold.

[English]

SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA : I do agree with the hon. Member that the production of gold in our country is very less. Our demand is 475 tonnes whereas we produce only two tonnes, the rest we are getting through import or from recycling. It is a very important question. The Government has taken several measures

to increase the gold production in our country. The Geological Survey of India is the nodal surveying agency which explores gold in our country. The Government will strive its best to give more money to the Geological Survey of India.

Looking to the demand of gold in our country, after liberalisation of the economy in 1993, the new Mineral Policy was announced. Previously, gold was reserved only for the public sector, now gold is open for the private sector also *viz*, both for foreign and domestic investments. It is because gold is a very high risk area More money is required. Modern technology is required. Geological survey is not adequate equipped to tackle this problem. So we are inviting investment to produce more gold in our country.

[Translation]

SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, my question was about the number and names of the foreign companies through which we are undertaking our mining work but that has not been replied.

[English]

SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA : I categorically said that after the liberalisation of economy in our country, we are encouraging both foreign and domestic investments. Regarding the specific question regarding which foreign company involved in gold exploration in the country, there is a Memorandum of Understanding signed between the Hindustan Zinc and BHP, Australia for mineral recovery in the eight districts of Rajasthan.

[Translation]

SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Hon'ble Minister has told in his reply to my question that an additional reserve of 6.73 metric tonne gold ore was explored during the years 1993-94, 1994-95 and 1995-96. He has informed about many such other places. I want to know from the Hon'ble Minister the quantity of gold ore explored in Gurhar hills of Madhya Pradesh and at other places in Rajasthan and Andhra Pradesh. What are the figures available with him in this regard.

[English]

SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA : Sir, I cannot give the actual figure right now. It is because gold is a very high rise area. Exploration is going on. The recovery percentage is not because gold in our country is of poor grade.

[Translation]

SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, this is a technical matter and when any survey is conducted, it becomes known as to how much quantity of gold is available at a particular place. Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Minister is not giving us actual figures.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : He has said that figures are not available with him.

SHRI PANKAJ CHOWDHARY : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I want to know from the Hon'ble Minister as to what are the Government's foreign investment policy in respect of mining work. How much capital has been invested and what are the conditions thereof?

[English]

SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA : After the liberalisation of our economy, new policies were announced and mineral sector is opened both for the domestic and foreign investments. Gold has also attracted enquiries. Foreign investment is good. There is no automatic approval for equity participation in gold. It is done on case to case basis. The Foreign Investment Board gives permission on certain conditions. The conditions are the size of the project, commitment of the external resources, previous track record of the company, level of technology to be employed in the project and financial status of the company.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[Translation]

PCO/Radio Telephones in Gram Panchayats

*364. SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH :
SHRI DEVI BUX SINGH :

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether any scheme is being introduced by the Government for linking the Gram Panchayats with Public Call Office and Radio Telephones in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise;

(c) the number of Gram Panchayats linked with Public Call Offices and Radio Telephones in the country till now, State-wise; and

(d) the target fixed for 1997-98 in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) and (b) There is already an existing scheme in the Department for providing public telephones in all the villages of the country including Gram Panchayats. The Radio technology such as Multi Access Rural Radio (MARR) is utilised wherever technically necessary.

(c) The details are provided in the enclosed Statement.

(d) The targets for 1997-98 is yet to be finalised.